

REMARKS

During a phone interview on August 23, 2004, the Examiner indicated that he had intended to reject Claims 2 and 3 as being obvious over U.S. Patent 5,693,859 ("Takase et al") for essentially the reasons set forth for Claim 6 in the previous Office Action. Applicants have accordingly canceled Claim 2. However, because Applicants submit that the first alternative set forth in Claim 3 is neither taught nor suggested by Takase et al, Applicants have amended Claim 3 to cancel the second alternative and to place the claim in independent form.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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